# Strata

for friends of the Peel Heritage Complex

June 1997 Volume 1 Issue 2


# An Affair to Remember!

It certainly was a very Courtly Affair! Decked in hand-painted silk banners, the refurbished Peel County Courthouse looked wonderful — and so did the over 250 guests, many of whom chose formal wear in honour of the event. Over $40,000 was raised at the sold-out May 23 event providing funds for children's art and heritage programs.

The gala evening featured gourmet hors d'oeuvres, and two auctions. The real highlight of the night was the appearance of the Hon. William G. Davis, former Premier of Ontario, as the celebrity auctioneer for the live auction. Bill's father, A. Grenville Davis, served as Crown Attorney for Peel County for 31 years and knew the Courthouse well. Davis' good-natured ribbing of auction participants helped raise the bidding on items such as a hand-crafted humidor, canoe, jewelry, a catered dinner for eight and a day of fly-fishing on the Credit River.

The silent auction portion of the evening was held in the Council Chamber where guests bid on a variety of luxurious and unique items, including several pieces of original art.

Event chair **Carol Dickson** and committee members **Carrie Andrews, Chris Butcher, David Dickson, Beryl Douglas Carole LaCentra, Judy Mills, Marie Owens, Victor Thorne, Ronald and Nancy Webb** worked on the gala for months. "People have worked incredibly hard to ensure that this event was a success" said Carol. "It was a truly elegant and wonderful evening. We thank all our generous supporters, those who donated prizes and helped underwrite the costs, for helping to create a memorable event."

In keeping with the theme, area art students submitted works with "courtly" motifs. Nancy Webb and her committee translated twenty of the posters into silk banners which hung from faux-finished bamboo poles. The vibrant colours and fanciful designs were a delightful addition gala's decor.

Three of the student artists will receive scholarships for art programs at the Complex. Congratulations to **Danny Orr,** Glendale Public School; **Lindsay Glaster**, Sir John A. Macdonald Sr. Public School and **Marsha Blackwood,** Central Peel Secondary School.

*A Courtly Affair* was the most successful fund raiser in the history of the Complex, proof that great things are happening here!


*This issue of Strata is sponsored by:*

INZOLA CONSTRUCTION


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# News from the Heritage Complex

## On the Treasure Trail

This summer explore ten great art and heritage treasures right in your own backyard and qualify to win fabulous prizes, such as an all inclusive trip to Cancun!

*On the Treasure Trail* was launched on May 16 and passports are selling fast. Each $5.00 passport gives you 10 chances to win. Take your passport to each participating site and collect a stamp to validate your entry. The more sites you visit, the more chances you have to win. The passport contains directions to each site, many of which do not charge admission. For those sites which do charge, the passport enables the holder to deduct $1.00. A busy day of gallery and museum hopping will leave you looking for refreshment, so take advantage of the discount coupons also in the passport.

Many of the sites are offering special family events and programs during *On the Treasure Trail*, which runs until August 10. Passports are available at the **Art Gallery of Mississauga, Burlington Art Centre, Burlington Museums, Crawford Lake Conservation Area, Halton County Radial Railway Museum, Halton Regional Museum, the Oakville Galleries, Oakville Museum**, and of course, the **Peel Heritage Complex.**

## Welcome aboard

The new Peel Heritage Complex Advisory Board brings together representatives of the Art Gallery, Archives and Museum. **Chuck Scott** is the new chair of the Board; **Marie Owens** is vice-chair. Other members are: **Carrie Andrews, Lorna Bissell, Heather Broadbent, Don Crawford Jr., John Cutruzzola, George Deshpande, Carol Dickson, Fran Livingston, Greg Purmal** and **Nancy Webb.** This Advisory Board supports the work of several committees which are busy with specific projects: a new Museum collection storage system, improved environmental systems in the Archives, Art Gallery events, a volunteer group and a marketing plan. With such ambitious work plans, the committees welcome your input. Want to find out more? - get involved!

## Curator's Corner

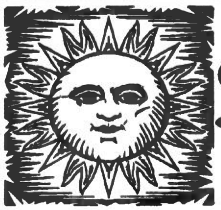
### Who picks the art around here?

Years ago, art and artifacts could only be seen in places of worship and homes of the very wealthy. Today's museums grew from private collections opened to the public during the late eighteenth century. The French Revolution transformed the Royal Collection into the National Collection in 1793, and the Louvre was born. Other countries followed suit and in the nineteenth century, with the rise of the middle class, the public museum came into its own.

In private collections acquisitions were straightforward. If the collector liked the piece, it was purchased, or an artist might be commissioned to create a work for the patron. Public museums, however, espoused more democratic ideas. Acquisition committees arrived at decisions through consensus. Curators provided advice on the importance of the acquisition to the overall collecting direction of the institution.

The varied collections of the Peel Heritage Complex began with the private collection of William Perkins Bull, noted Peel historian and collector. Bull's collection of Canadian art, native and pioneer artifacts formed the nucleus for what has become the largest public collection in the Region of Peel.

Both the Art Gallery of Peel and the Region of Peel Museum have committees which review potential donations and purchases. Members of the Peel Heritage Complex, through the Advisory Board and Committees, continue a tradition of public participation in building a cultural legacy.



# Summer exhibitions and programs

## Turn up the heat on creativity!

Special *"On the Treasure Trail"* programs: Brain Cell Exploration Days, every Saturday until June 28, 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., plus these special programs:

**Animation Madness**
Sunday, June 8, 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**"Tie-one-On" Father's Day Workshop**
Sunday, June 15, 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**Family Banner Workshop**
Sunday, June 22, 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

**Family ARTventure**
Sunday, June 29, 12:30 - 4:00 p.m.

In July we have our usual slate of creative and fun courses for children and teens. The popular *Teen Portfolio Workshop* allows teens to explore a different medium and topic each Thursday evening.

For kids ages 6 - 12 , we will be offering a variety of art, archaeology and history courses. If you didn't receive our flyer, call us for details.

Treasure Trail, summer programs, Kidsummer .. there's lots to do at the Peel Heritage Complex so fire up your creative spirit!

## *In the Art Gallery of Peel:*

Continuing until 15 June: ***The 24th Juried show of Fine Arts***

25 June - 31 August: ***Landscape, landscape, landscape: Aspects of the Collection.*** Works by contemporary Canadian artists such as **Euan Macdonald, Richard Storms, Michael Snow** will contrast more traditional works from the Permanent Collection., including works by **Stewart Shaw, Georges Chavignaud, Frank Armington,** and **Frederick Hagen**. See how landscapes have evolved over the last sixty years,and how this change is reflected in the Collection.

3 September-19 October: ***Per Kristiansen: Plastic Fantastic.*** This talented photographer examines the world of suburbia, adolescence and pop culture. Members' reception on 10 September, 1997.

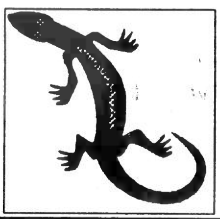
30 October - 4 Jan. 1997: ***This Mortal Coil: Images of Death, Mourning and Loss.*** How are our perceptions of death manifested in art and artifacts? Do we hide from it or embrace it? How has our culture attempted to hide from the fact that death is inevitable? Through the juxtaposition of contemporary and traditional art *This Mortal Coil* attempts to answer some of these age-old questions.

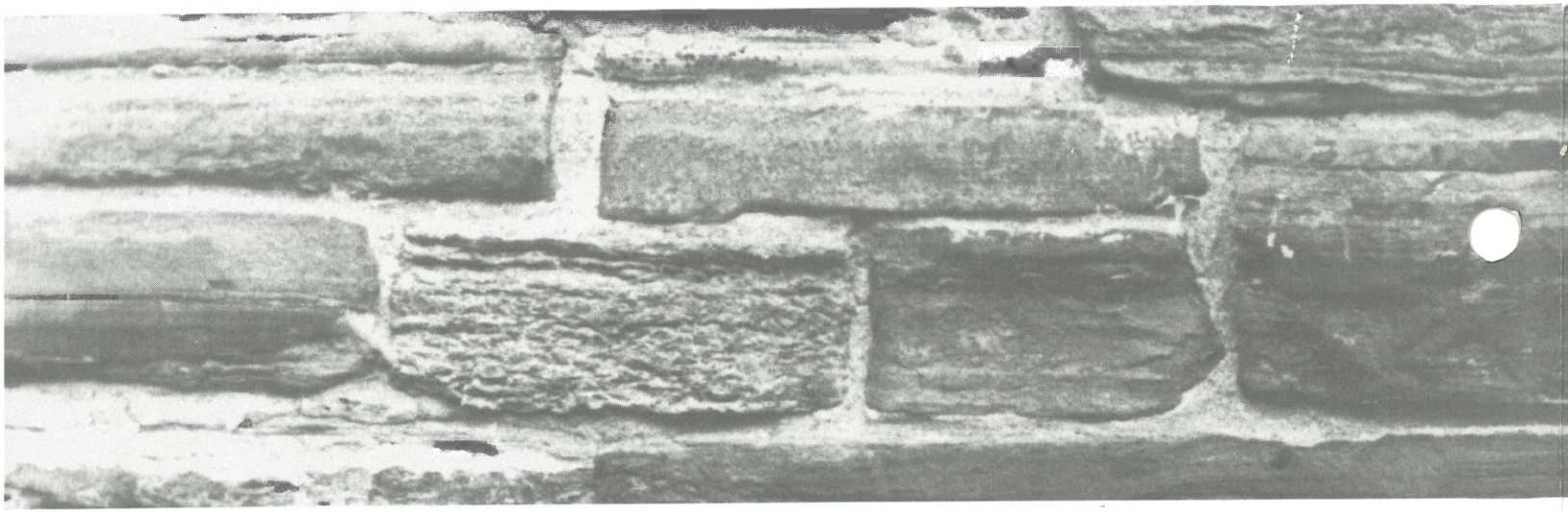
## *In the Charles Armstrong Gallery of 19th & 20th Century Peel History:*

20 June - 27 July (Centre room): ***Cutting Edge: The Canadian Knife Makers Guild,*** an exhibition of ceremonial and artistic knives and daggers.

3 Sept. - 4 Jan. 1998: ***Days of the Dead / Dias de los Muertos*** - a fantastic, colourful and exuberant festival celebrated by Mexicans at home and abroad. Far from a gloomy focus on death, the Days of the Dead festival celebrates ancestors and family ties with humour and joy. Don't miss this chance to explore a unique cultural experience.

**Kidsummer day - July 20 - tons of fun!**





## hours:

*Archives*
**Mon. - Fri.: 10:00 - 4:30 PM**
**Sat.: 12:00 - 4:30 PM**

*Exhibitions & Gift Shop*
**Tue. - Fri.: 10:00 - 4:30 PM**
**Thursday: 6:00 - 9:00 PM**
**Sat. & Sun.: 12:00 - 4:30 PM**

## admission:

*Archives & Gift Shop:* **free**

*Exhibitions:*
**Members: free**
**Adults: $2.50**
**Seniors: $1.50**
**Students: $ 1.00**
**Families: $7.00**
**Children under 5: free**

## call us at:

**(905) 451-9896**
**exhibitions, programs**

**(905) 457-3948**
**collections, research**

**(905) 451-4931**
**fax**

# new hours

The Heritage Complex is now open Mondays, 10:00 - 4:30, in addition to our previous hours (this change is not shown to the left as portions of the newsletter are printed in advance).

**Strata is printed by Excel Desk Top Publishing and Printing**

# Detour-roadwork!

Once again the Complex will be the site of backhoes and loaders, this time it's sewer main reconstruction on Wellington Street. We have been assured that parking will not be impeded and that access to the Complex will not be affected!

The work is scheduled to be completed mid-summer. In the meantime, drive carefully!

## *New in the Gift Shop ....*

... a wonderful variety of kids' books (arts, crafts, nature, dinosaurs), local history books, posters and photographic prints of the AVRO Arrow, UNICEF cards, candles, hand-painted silk scarves, Impressionist umbrellas and much more! Enjoy your members discount!


Heritage Complex Gift Shop

*neat gifts, toys and books*

9 Wellington St. East Brampton ON L6W 1Y1